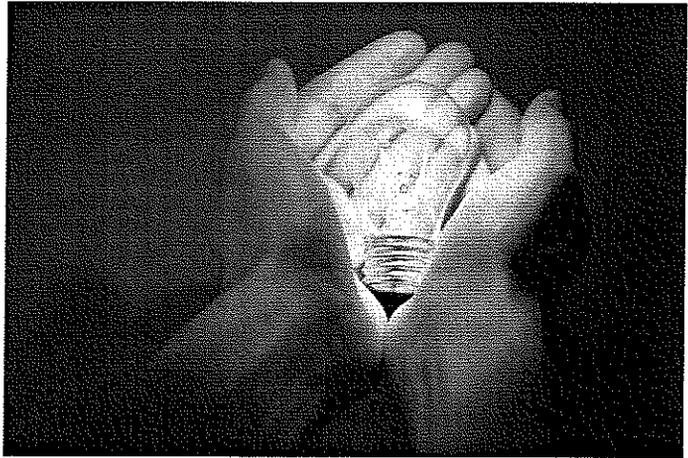
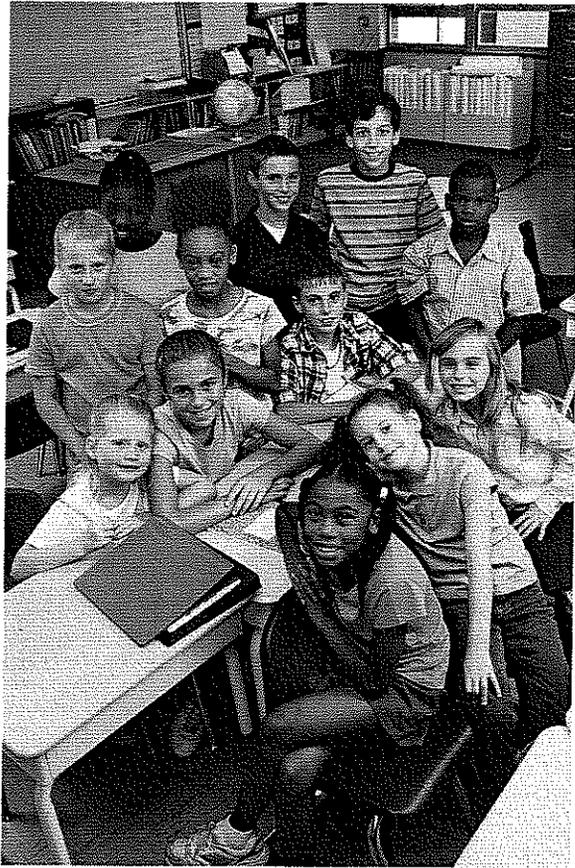


CREC Regional Services to Municipalities and Districts



 **CREC**
Capitol Region Education Council



Business Services

1. Cooperative Purchasing

- CREC offers pre-awarded bids that aggregate district and municipality buying power statewide and nationally. Current offers range from technology products and software to school supplies, furniture, and portable classrooms, among many others. In 2007, total Connecticut expenditures for items provided through CREC's cooperative purchasing programs exceeded \$11 million.

2. Energy Savings

- CREC's energy program helped 15 school districts and two RESCs upgrade lighting through CL&P's incentive programs. The projects were financed entirely out of savings with no up-front costs. Total completed project work was \$800K, resulting in savings of \$200K annually following the three-year amortization of costs.

3. Communications/Public Relations/Marketing

- The CREC Office of Communications provides media relations, graphic design support, communications and marketing assistance, and e-mail campaign services to municipalities, school districts, and private clients at very reasonable rates.

Our staff includes a former Hartford Courant reporter with a strong media relations background and numerous contacts with the print and electronic media community and a writer/graphic designer with over 20 years of experience in writing, editing, desktop publishing, and commercial printing support.

4. Information/Network Management

- To help municipalities and districts maximize their technology investments, CREC offers a technology audit service. The audit identifies ways that towns and schools can minimize the total cost of ownership associated with purchasing and maintaining computer networks and hardware. Additionally, CREC provides best-practice advice on how districts can improve the use of technology to support operations.

In addition to strategic technology consultation, CREC provides full-time and just-in-time outsourced technology support. Our team of certified network and systems engineers offers decades of hands-on expertise in designing and supporting data centers, networks, and cross-platform server and desktop systems.

5. Database Development

- CREC can assist districts and municipalities with customized information and workflow management solutions by developing desktop, workgroup, and enterprise-level databases and applications. We can provide school lottery systems, discipline databases, and assessment management systems. We create solutions for your specific needs and help expand your internal capacity.

6. Workforce Readiness and Transition

- CREC serves as a regional leader in workforce development by providing adult basic education, training, and assessment services for job seekers and incumbent workers in the Capitol Region. These educational and transitional services support a robust workforce in the region and provide avenues for further career development to current workers.

7. Project Management/Construction Services

- CREC's School Construction Division can provide municipalities or school districts with high value project management and construction-related services at lower costs. We currently provide services to Bloomfield, Glastonbury, Suffield, and Wallingford, as well as Goodwin College. We also played a leading role in the opening four new choice schools in Avon, Enfield, East Hartford, and Hartford.

8. Business Office Management

- CREC has an extraordinarily successful record of financial management. Our consultative services can help municipalities and school districts improve internal controls and timely reporting.

9. Facility and Food Service Management

- CREC manages over 1,000,000 square feet of space, including food service at multiple locations. Our facility management infrastructure can improve operations for both municipalities and school districts.

10. Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)

- Most municipal and school district employers offer EAP services to their employees as a benefit. CREC provides valuable short-term evaluation, crisis intervention, counseling and referral services at a prorated group rate. As part of this program, CREC offers outreach to employees in all municipal and district locations as well as professional development for supervisors in effective employment support strategies.

11. Regional Transportation

- CREC currently provides transportation services for all CHOICE students. CREC can also design and implement a regional transportation service for any group of local districts.

Educational Services

1. Professional Development

- CREC provides professional development for educators in all aspects of education from early childhood through adult education. By offering sessions, conferences and on-site support throughout the region, CREC is able to offer high quality, cutting-edge educational practices to its member districts at rates significantly less than any one district could provide for itself.

2. On-Line Student Learning Services

- CREC coordinates the Virtual High School Consortium for the State of Connecticut and offers Virtual Learning Academy to the CREC-region schools. Both offer a cost-effective way for schools with limited resources to offer courses online. Options include honors, AP, career exploration, and credit recovery courses.

3. Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant Program

- CREC, in collaboration with Manchester Community College and funding from the CT State Department of Education, is part of a new program to prepare individuals to be Speech/Language Pathology Assistants, a critical area of shortage within Connecticut.

4. Program Audits

- CREC staff conducts reviews of special education programs to provide practical recommendations for efficient resource allocation, appropriate inclusion strategies, and special education organizational structure and processes. Special education costs are a significant portion of each local budget. Managing these costs, while maintaining a high quality program, is critical to fiscal responsibility of districts.

5. Services to Special Needs Students

River Street School

- CREC provides special education services to children and adolescents (ages three to 21) with autism and developmental disabilities. These services are customized in terms of the length of day (up to 11 hours) and number of days per year (up to 240). Home, center-based, and consultative programs and assistive technology and sensory integration services are available. Two residential homes are also available.

Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center

- CREC works with students with learning and behavior problems from nine member districts. The services provided include short-term diagnostic placements, specialized evaluations, longer-term educational needs and transition services. The program is designed to return students to their home schools as soon as possible with a plan in place that will improve their chances of success in the less restrictive environment.

Soundbridge

- CREC provides hearing-impaired children (birth through age 21) with a continuum of services from the time of diagnosis through post-secondary placements. There are center based programs, consulting teachers, audiologists, audio-visual therapists, cochlear mapping services as well as many other related services available for hearing impaired children and their families throughout Connecticut. Soundbridge is also the training site for a master's level program (in collaboration with the University of Hartford) for teachers of the hearing impaired. The program also accepts typically developing 3- to 5-year-olds, allowing for an inclusion-model preschool classroom.

John J. Allison, Jr. Polaris Center

- Services include behavioral intervention and support as well as on-site psychiatric consultation and management of psychiatric medication.

6. Magnet Schools

CREC operates twelve outstanding interdistrict magnet schools, providing educational choice to our member districts. Those schools are:

- Charter School for Young Children, Hartford
- East Hartford-Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School, East Hartford
- Great Path Academy, Manchester
- Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Hartford
- Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science, Hartford
- International Magnet School for Global Citizenship, East Hartford
- Metropolitan Learning Center, Bloomfield
- Montessori Magnet School, Hartford
- Public Safety Academy, Enfield
- Reggio Magnet School for the Arts, Avon
- Two Rivers Magnet Middle School, East Hartford
- University of Hartford Magnet School, West Hartford

7. Open Choice Program

- The Capitol Region Choice Program allows urban students to attend public schools in nearby suburban towns. Formally known as Project Concern, the program allows approximately 1,150 Hartford students to attend schools in 27 suburban districts and 125 schools annually.

8. Special Needs Transportation

- CREC is working with its member districts now to create a CREC-run transportation service for out-of-district special needs students. The objectives are to increase service quality and reduce costs. We launched a pilot application of this new service in September 2008.

9. Early Childhood Services

CREC is working with the State Department of Education, community-based providers, school districts, and early childhood advocates to support Connecticut's groundbreaking early childhood initiative. Examples include:

- Project Choice Early Beginnings, which is addressing "Sheff" and the achievement gap
- The School for Young Children on Asylum Hill, which is providing integrated preschool and child care
- Professional development in language, literacy, behavior management, curriculum, assessment, and instruction in member school districts

10. Common Assessment Consortium

- CREC has developed a consortium for districts to share assessment resources that are utilized by all districts in preparing students for success on the high-stakes assessments mandated by No Child Left Behind. This collaborative effort will reduce individual costs for each district by creating and validating assessment tools for teaching and learning and by building capacity in the region for best practices in assessment.

11. Education Services to Youths in Detention

- CREC is assisting Hartford Public Schools by providing the mandated educational program to children from around the region who are being held in state detention facilities located in Hartford.